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Vol. 2, No. 31

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Unity In a Common Need

(By GEORGE PIERCE)

IF you were to ask a thousand men what is the matter with the country, you would probably get a thousand different answers.

Some would say that working men get too much and produce too little. Others that the working men did not get a fair share of what they produced, and therefore, they are discouraged and restless. Some would declare that capital costs too much, interest rates are too high and enterprises discouraged. Some would blame it on the Government, some on the trade unions, some on Russia, some on the general discontent following life in the trenches, some on the high cost of living, some on profiteers, some on the greed of labor, others on the avarice of the farmers and some on the cupidity of capital, and so on until you had a thousand answers.

There is probably a grain of truth in each of these so-called reasons, but it is equally true that no single one would be entirely responsible.

Everyone admits that the people are suffering keenly with the price of meats, sugar and vegetables. The things we need in order to exist are dangerously high. If we wish to realize the situation in its fullness, let us be mindful of the little gardens that have popped up on every vacant lot. Let us recognize the coats and frocks that have been turned inside out to give us further wear. Let us observe the pinched, careworn faces of the crowds. Let us look upon the universal anxiety and we cannot fail to come to a realization of the widespread seriousness of the situation. In many parts of the world, men in combat are laying down their lives to escape just such conditions.

One great trouble with the situation is that although those who are very rich and powerful sympathize with the plight of the masses, they cannot feel the condition. You can only feel what touches you. The high price of clothing, the high price of shelter, the cost of food, does not touch the rich; therefore, there is lacking in the readjustment of this unbearable condition, the genius, the organizing ability, the constructive brain work of the very class which is absolutely indispensable to bring about the desirable change of conditions. Even the Bolsheviks have learned the indispensability of brains, learning and experience. Theoretical radicals would take very drastic exception to this pronouncement, but the experienced Russian Bolshevik would admit the truth of the assertion.

After all, it can become strikingly clear if we put the matter in a different way. Let us say that there were a great plague, yellow fever or the smallpox, for example, spreading throughout the country, devastating the communities with death. The rich and the poor, the ignorant and the brilliant, saint and sinner, would be stricken, one like the other. How long do you think it would be before efficient organizations were formed throughout the length and breadth of the land? Churches and schools would be developed into hospitals, trucks and automobiles would become ambulances, military barracks would become dispensing hospitals, rules of hygiene would be flashed upon every movie screen, churches would be closed, theatres would remain dark, expensive medicines would be given free distribution, sanitary food would be rationed out, and an army of doctors and nurses would be organized, and there would be drilled squads of grave diggers to bury the dead.

Why? Simply because all classes, the brainy and the brainless, the rich and the poor, were subject to a common danger, so rich and poor combine to fight a common foe, the brains of the rich and the brawn of the poor co-operating with one hundred per cent efficiency in an army to defeat the legions of death and devastation.

Before this world can become much better than it is, the very rich and the very powerful will need to understand the very poor and the very helpless. Both must feel the desire for the keenest co-operation in all constructive and progressive needs. It is depending upon the education of the rich and poor alike. The welfare of all the people is not contingent upon one great act, upon one great principle. It depends upon the successful co-

operation of all the people in a multitude of small things. Nothing has ever brought this home to my mind with greater force than our struggle to establish a permanent, scientific Tariff Board. We have repeatedly challenged all reactionary interests, all partisan politicians, to produce a sensible argument against the appointment of such a Board. The farmers have produced a few feeble objections, and apart from this there has been no sound opposition, yet under the surface, silent and inexorable, one can feel the pressure and the influence of the reactionaries. There is that sinister opposition to the unassailable right and irreproachable justice of a permanent Tariff Board, and yet it must be apparent to all that a poor fiscal policy, unscientific and slipshod, could ruin the richest of countries.

Will it take an industrial plague of vast proportions before our law-makers are content to drop the opportunities of trenchant politics, or are we to forge ahead to great heights on the sure, reliable wings of science? A scientific Tariff Board is a real public necessity. It is as vital as the air we breathe. Either we get it now without more ado or we fight for it; but get it we must and shall.

A Worker's Will About His Funeral

(Written for the *Railroader*)
(Anonymous)

WHEN I pass on, put me in my old free-and-easy duds, including the pants with the baggy knees and the match scratches on the thigh. Burn my stiff shirts and collars and my Sunday hat, badges of dress servitude, or give them to some other unfortunate who has to wear these things a little while longer.

Lay me in some plain, cheap box or wrap me in cheesecloth at the last—no matter. If it is daisy-time ask the children to give me some daisies. They used to like to pull daisies for me, and I want them to remember those days.

There are to be no black clothes, two-quart hats, black ties, crepe bands or mourning cards, and no laments in the advertising columns. To my mind, the money and thought can be better spent on food, clothing and shelter for somebody who lives. Those who love me or think kindly of me do not need to make any public parade of it; and I would rather that they were just themselves.

The simplest and most economical funeral would please me best. I would infinitely prefer to travel in an express waggon, with the driver in cap and apron. That at least would be ordinary and familiar. A hearse always seems to me a monstrosity, a glorification of gloom. Why fuss and frill when I am dead, anyway?

Cut out the formal condolence stuff, unless it is a pledge of service to be done. No one is to leave things neglected to be at my funeral. No one is to be there because it is "the thing" or there is "a kind of duty" or "obligation". No stranger is to be present representing anybody or anything; I dislike this "representing" formality. There is

to be no "chief mourner"; a chieftainship in mourning seems a queer thing to me. No person indifferent to me and mine in life is to stalk behind me when I am dead; not that it would bother me, but that I am sure it would bother him or her. There is to be no sex distinction at my funeral in any matter.

I do not like formal religious services at funerals; there is a tendency to lose sight of the spirit in adherence to the form. If there is a minister of religion who is a good personal friend, let him come if he will and speak of me as he knew me, faults and all, with no fancy turning of sentences. I would not like to have a strange minister commit me to the grave in a nice professional way. I would rather have a layman friend tell what was in his heart, or her heart, and do and say those things which seemed to him, or her, to be right and true.

The place of burial is really of no importance. I think of those who died in war or were committed to the sea. But if there be easy scope for a little sentiment, put me on a hillside near the trees where the birds will nest. There should be no "funeral flowers" except the wild ones nearest to the hand. There must be no headstones or decorations; to me they seem mere extravagances, doing nothing, meaning nothing; I have sometimes feared that they were only the hopeless monuments of a belated repentance.

Let there be no period of mourning. The sooner the mind is free again from concentration on the dust the better. There is too much to be done for the living.

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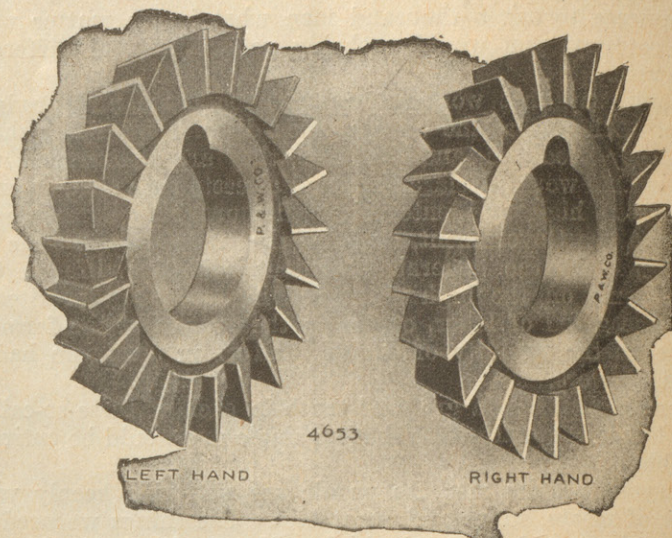
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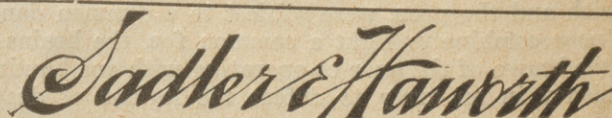
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Shows Advantages of Proportional Representation

A. E. Parker Claims That Recent Test At Winnipeg Was Success.

There are three lessons to be system. The whole of the Winnipeg area was grouped into one constituency and ten seats in the Legislature were allotted to it. Forty-one candidates were nominated, consisting of 10 Liberals, 10 Conservatives, 10 Labor nominees and 11 Independents. This superabundance of candidates was the cause of considerable trouble to the election officials and the counting staff, and turned out to be somewhat costly to those candidates who lost their deposits. The Manitoba Election Act provides that any defeated candidate who received first choices less in number than 25 per cent. of the quota shall lose his or her deposit of \$200. Under this regulation, 25 candidates lost their deposits, and the Government profited to the extent of \$5,000. The candidates affected consisted of the following: Independents, 8; Liberals, 5; Labor nominees, 7; Conservative, 7.

Transferable Vote.

Under the P.R. system the voter has only one vote, but that vote is transferable. When marking the ballot the voter places the figure 1 op-

posite the name of the candidate whom he wishes to see elected. That figure 1 is called his first choice. He continues to place numbers opposite the names of candidates he favors, the figure 2 against one, the figure three against another, and so on. The figure 2 denotes his second choice, the figure 3, his third choice, etc.

The first task of the counting staff was to tabulate the number of first choices given to the respective candidates, and to segregate the ballot papers in separate bundles according to the candidates for whom they were given.

When the first count was completed it was found that 47,427 good ballots had been cast. The quota was then ascertained by dividing this number by one more than the number of seats to be filled, adding one to the result. This meant that to secure election at this stage of the proceedings, a candidate had to have at least 4,312 votes. Two candidates were elected on the first count and a third candidate was elected on the second count. The fourth candidate was not elected until the 31st count, the fifth was elected on the 32nd count, the sixth and seventh on the 33rd count and the remaining three on the 37th count.

The independent candidates were entirely eliminated from the contest before it ended, plainly demonstrating that a candidate must be supported by a fairly, strong group

of votes before his election can be secured. There were 6,362 votes cast for the 11 Independent candidates on the first count but not one of these candidates benefitted sufficiently from the subsequent counts to secure election. In the ordinary form of election those who voted for these Independents would have wast-



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ed their votes, but under P.R. the votes were simply transferred to the next choices marked thereon. As a result of the various transfers the Liberal candidates received approximately 2,500 votes and the Conservatives gained approximately 1,400 votes more than was shown in the original count. It will be noted that the Independent vote went principally to the Liberal and Conservative candidates when it was distributed.

Fairness of Method.

The final result demonstrates the fairness of proportional representation as a method of elections, says Mr. Parker. The labor vote represented a little more than 40 per cent. of the total vote and labor elected 40 per cent. of the members. The Liberal vote represented nearly 40 per cent. of the total vote, and the Liberals elected 40 per cent. of the members. The Conservatives were supported by votes representing a little less than 20 per cent. of the total vote, and they elected 20 per cent. of the members.

Advocates of the proportional representation declare that P.R. gives absolute freedom of choice to the voter; that it encourages independence on the part of the voter. An outstanding instance of this was given

in the transfer of the surplus of Dixon, the labor candidate. Dixon received 11,586 votes, being 7,274 more than he needed. As a result Dixon's ballots were re-examined to ascertain the second choices marked thereon. The result was as follows: second choices for labor candidates, 10,075; second choices for Liberal candidates, 368; second choices for Conservative candidates, 310; second choices for Independent candidates, 766; non-transferable, 67. This clearly shows that over 1,400 voters who originally voted labor marked their second choices for non-labor candidates.

Freedom of Choice.

Another instance is found in the result of the elimination of Jacob, a Liberal candidate. Jacob's votes totaled 2,347 and they were distributed as follows: 91 votes went to labor candidates, 147 votes to Conservative candidates, 1,770 votes to Liberal candidates, 188 votes to Independent candidates, and 151 votes were non-transferable.

The foregoing shows that over 18 per cent. of Jacob's votes went to candidates other than Liberal candidates.

The transfer of votes credited to Christie, Conservative candidate, at the time of his elimination, result-

ed as follows: 33 votes went to Labor candidates, 145 to Liberal candidates, 1,354 to Conservative candidates, 157 to Independent and 37 were non-transferable.

From the foregoing it will be seen that nearly 20 per cent. of the Conservative votes left the party when the transfer was made.

In the last count 1,867 ballots were not transferable, or in other words, exhausted. This means that 1,867 voters lost their votes because they did not mark sufficient choices on their ballots. Many of them were content with just marking the figure 1. With 41 candidates it was necessary to mark at least 10 choices on the ballot, and those who did not do that ran the risk of having their ballots used up—each of the candidates marked thereon having possibly been either elected or defeated.

—o—

SIDE - LINES

(By KENNEDY CRONE)

FOR the greater part of the year my view in spare moments is largely made up of bricks—plain and fancy, good and bad, fresh and dirty, cheap and dear, red, yellow, buff and tapestry. They have their uses, but they were not made as rest or entertainment for the eye or to be contemplated when the mind seeks relief from worry or puzzle. They are hard, harsh, coarse things with not a jot of sympathy or understanding of human desire. Frills like cut stone trim or castellated zinc at roof lines, or wooden stairs and little dabs of wooden galleries, break the expanse in a small but unimpressive way. Avaunt brick! I know thee well and I like thee not! Avaunt, once more!

In the summer some trees bravely try to soften the brick, but there are not enough trees and too many bricks. The few trees in most of the places I am thinking of look as if they had strayed from home and got into bad company. There are not enough of them to elevate the character of the company.

For a brief period of the year I see no bricks when I sit down or roam around at leisure. Trees, hay, grass and flowers have almost a monopoly of the view. Who wants to look at brick when there is offering a panorama of nature's handiwork to charm the eye and lighten the mind and freshen the body? Any votes to the contrary? None. Carried.

The sad thing of it all is how many persons are condemned to bricks, bricks, bricks in this country of great stretches of nature. Most of the huddling together is quite unnecessary, anyway, for all the ordinary purposes of earning a living and living; all we need is a little change of spirit and a little turn in the angle of viewpoint. The rest is easy.

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THE PEST - HOLE

Being a Further Examination into the Horrors of St. Louis Street.

(By Kennedy Crone)

The Railroader promised to follow up the story, outlined in the issue of July 10, concerning the dreadful conditions under which human beings were existing — and dying before their time — on 'St. Louis street, a kind of leprous No Man's Land sandwiched between the model municipalities of St. Lambert and Greenfield Park. Letters, telephone calls and visitors have been numerous at this office in the connection, and it is hoped that out of all the fuss something real will be accomplished in the name of humanity and common decency.

Dr. W. A. L. Styles, Executive Secretary of the Baby Welfare Committee, and the undefeated champion of Montreal babies, although the reactionaries have pulled him over a lot of rough places, wrote in part:—

"I have just read your article in the Canadian Railroader, issue of July 10, under caption, 'Policemen Periodically Segregate Pest-Hole Near Montreal'. I must say that your comment is both warranted and timely. As the one who originally investigated this district, I must confess that your criticism of the permitted existence of such 'pest holes' is a deep reflection on the public health conscience of the Province of Quebec, and a direct challenge to our Provincial Board of Health, who, knowing of the existence of this public health menace, have nevertheless permitted same to exist, thus wiping of much of our population — potential and otherwise".

Dr. Styles enclosed a copy of the original survey made by him and Nurses Scott, Gauthier and Reid on behalf of the Baby Welfare Committee, and this confirms what had already been commented on in the Railroader and in some respects intensifies the horror of the story. The summary of the survey is worth repeating in full, and needs no comment. Let it sink in:—

"The district surveyed, St. Louis street, immediately adjoins St. Lambert, Que., from which it is separated by the railroad tracks. The street is about one-half a mile long, with houses on both sides of the street. Most of the houses are owned by the tenants. The entire district is unprovided with any sanitary arrangements of any description, — save of primitive origin.

"Percentage of milk used by

these families is very high compared with civic standards — probably on account of milk retailing at 12 cents the quart. Some of the mothers will not give milk to their children, as they have found from experience that same immediately causes illness among the babies: this is easily explained on account of the evident way milk is handled. Mosquitoes are very much in evidence in this district, even at this early date (June 28th). Ignorance seemed rampant in the district.

"We are reliably informed, that sanitary conditions are so bad at certain seasons of the year, that the St. Lambert authorities have had occasion to post policemen at both ends of the street to prevent the residents of this locality from coming into St. Lambert.

"Contagious diseases are seasonally present throughout the region under survey and their ruthless activities are well illustrated by the number of children dead in the families surveyed.

"A physician was seen the entire afternoon paying calls to families along the street. One observer who lives adjacent to the church advises that 'thirty-two babies were christened within twenty-six days'...

"There is immediate and imperative need of an installation of a system of sewerage disposal and water supply, which the Provincial Board of Health have the authority to install even over the heads of ignorant and protesting taxpayers. Also, there is a crying need of a Child Welfare Station, with a competent Nurse, to combat the unparalleled ignorance concerning child hygiene extant in this district."

The survey goes into numerous specific details. Here are a few cases of babies examined. Try to picture these little strangers just coming into life to be hustled out of it again, or to drag on to inefficient manhood and womanhood:—

"Baby No. 1. — Baby is 13 1-2 months old, already 20 ozs. underweight: breastfed only two weeks, weaned on account of illness raging in family: baby eats at table the same food as 'rest of family': 9 children alive, with 4 dying in infancy, and 1 miscarriage: family taking only 1 quart of milk a day: baby has an active condition of rickets, acute bronchitis, and greatly enlarged tonsils.

Baby No. 2. — Baby is 2 1-2 months old, already 20 ozs. underweight: breast-fed 2 months and weaned 'because baby looked sick': 6 children are alive, and 4 dead: baby has an eczema of face and a hernia of the navel.

"Baby No. 3. — Baby is 4 1-2 months, and already 2 1-2 inches undersized: never breast fed:

brought up on undiluted cow's milk, and at present takes 5 ozs "when-ever the bottle is handy": 5 children alive, 2 dead and 1 miscarriage; baby just recovering from an attack of 'Summer Diarrhoea': eczema of face: pitiful condition of uncleanness of body and clothes.

"Baby No. 4. — Baby is 6 months old and already 2 1-2 inches undersized and 60 ozs underweight: 6 children alive, with 3 dead and 1 miscarriage: no cow's milk is used by this family, who buy 3 cans of condensed milk a week: all babies have died from acute contagious diseases which run rampant in this district: both home and baby are filthy: mother is a pronounced mental defective.

"Baby No. 5. — Baby is 6 months old, but never breast-fed: was fed on undiluted cow's milk and "the run of the table": family own 5 cows and supply the neighborhood with milk: milk is kept under very unsanitary conditions: 7 children living and 8 dead."

In seven out of fifteen cases examined babies were weaned on account of illness of either mother or infant.

Let us look at the weekly wages of some of the fathers of families on St. Louis street, for these, too, doubtless play a part in the general demoralization:—

Father No. 1, \$20 (three children);
Father No. 2, \$30 (six children living, three dead);

Father No. 3, \$25 (five children);
Father No. 4, \$22 (nine children living, four dead);

Father No. 5, \$30 (six children living, four dead);

Father No. 6, \$19 (five children living, three dead);

Father No. 7, \$30 (five children);
Father No. 8, \$33 (five children);

Father No. 9, \$24 (three children living, three dead);

Father No. 10, \$35 (one child);

Father No. 11, \$40 (four children);

Father No. 12, \$23 (five children);

Father No. 13, \$20 (six children living, three dead);

Father No. 14, \$30 (two children).

Remember, too, that most of these men have been trying to build their own homes; they are, potentially at least, an excellent class of citizens.

Although it was probably brought to their attention in other ways, quite a number of St. Lambert residents being red-hot on the thing from one viewpoint or another, the Railroader sent copies of the paper to the mayor and alderman of St. Lambert and a letter (on July, 13) trusting that the administration would inaugurate on its own behalf, or demand the inauguration from the Superior Board of Health and other responsible authorities, of a campaign to ameliorate the dreadful conditions pointed out. The Town Council has made no official response, although Mayor Gordon was good enough to state to the Railroader the town's side of the case and to answer a number of questions.

Copies of the paper and a letter on lines similar to the one sent to St. Lambert were forwarded to the chairman of the Superior Board of Health, which is the provincial body responsible for care of the general health of the people. The letter was dated July 13, but no answer has been received.

I asked Mayor Gordon if St. Lambert had officially communicated with the Superior Board of Health on the question at any time. "Oh, yes", said he, "but we never got any satisfaction. You know how slow government departments are!" Meanwhile, filth and disease and neglect, nearly all of which could be prevented, take their toll in lives and afflictions.

On account of shortage of space, Mayor Gordon's story and other enlightening matters in this notorious case have to be held over until next issue.

(At the time of going to press a reply has been received from the Town Council of St. Lambert.)

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GEO. PIERCE, Editor. KENNEDY CRONE, Associate Editor.

What About Canada?

ACCORDING to Mr. Houston, the Secretary of the Treasury, it has been estimated that the American people spent \$22,000,000,000 in luxuries last year. The figure is so big that it is hard to grasp; one can only gasp.

The estimates are given below, those under 1 and 2 being based on the tax-rates and tax-receipts, while those under 3 are based on such information as the experts of the Treasury Department could gather from different sources:

1

Estimated Expenditure for Certain Articles Upon Which Federal Taxes Are Now Levied.

Chewing-gum	\$ 50,000,000
Candy	1,000,000,000
Cigarettes	800,000,000
Soft drinks, including ice-cream and soda	350,000,000
Perfumery and cosmetics	750,000,000
Admissions and dues	800,000,000
Jewellery	500,000,000
Cereal beverages	230,000,000
Cigars	510,000,000
Tobacco and snuff	800,000,000
Sporting goods	25,000,000
Firearms and shells	50,000,000
Hunting and shooting garments	7,000,000
Cigar- and cigarette-holders	1,000,000
Fur articles	300,000,000
Yachts	1,000,000
Carpets, rugs and wearing-apparel (on excesses over stated prices)	1,500,000,000
Total of above	\$7,674,000,000

2

Liveries	3,000,000
Pianos, organs, victrolas, etc.	250,000,000
Electric fans, portable	8,000,000
Art works	15,000,000
Toilet soaps, etc.	400,000,000
Automobiles and parts	2,000,000,000
Total	\$2,676,000,000

3

Additional Articles

Ice-cream	\$ 250,000,000
Cakes, confections, etc.	350,000,000
Luxurious services	3,000,000,000
Luxuries in hotels and restaurants	750,000,000
Luxurious food, etc.	5,000,000,000
Other luxuries—joy-riding, pleasure resorts, races, etc.	3,000,000,000

Total . . . \$12,350,000,000

Total estimated expenditures . . . \$22,700,000,000

Mr. Houston says:

"Opinion will differ as to whether many of these articles should be classed as luxuries or non-essentials and expenditure on them as unwise or extravagant. Expenditure in reasonable measure for many of the articles would not be regarded as luxurious or wasteful, but expenditure in such volume on any of them and the aggregate expenditure for such things and services would, I imagine, be regarded as unreasonable and extravagant especially in view of present domestic and world conditions. I am aware of the fact that no one would ask the public to eliminate all such expenditure or expect the public to make more than a reasonable reduction of it.

"As bearing on the clamor about the shortage of sugar, I would call your attention to the expenditure, outside of the household, that is, on things prepared or sold outside of the household, in which sugar is a large ingredient, of \$1,000,000,000 for candy, \$350,000,000 for soft drinks, \$230,000,000 for cereal beverages, \$250,000,000 for icecream, and \$350,000,000 for cakes, confections, etc., a total of over \$2,000,000,000."

Would it be reasonable to suppose that Canadian expenditure on luxury is as great, proportionately, as American expenditure? Our own Minister of Finance has hereby suggested to him a line of enquiry that would be of great interest. Some of the sub-heads might be — How much Canadian capital is in non-essential occupations; how much human effort is being used in the production of non-essential goods which might be turned to the production of necessities and cause a reduction in the cost of living; how much material required in or as necessities is at present being used in non-essential production?

If we had any reliable idea as to the amount of luxuries consumed in Canada, and the classes of people who consume them, we might find new ways to reorganize some things for the benefit of the whole community instead of screeching at Labor.

K. C.

STAG

CHEWING TOBACCO

"Ever-lasting-ly Good"

It gives to the consumer
a feeling of pleasure
and contentment.

THE EAGLE SCREAMS

This scream of the eagle appears in the latest issue of the Dearborn Independent, "Henry Ford's Weekly." The combination of the hot weather and the "Glorious Fourth" was evidently too much for the Independent, which is usually well-balanced:

World Leadership

Leadership in world affairs has from time to time changed from one city and country to another. Three thousand years ago, at the time of David and Solomon, Tyre was the financial and commercial capital of the known earth. Tyre was in Syria, old Phoenicia, on the parallel of North Florida. The ships of the bold Phoenicians went to all parts of the Mediterranean—their world. The clanging bell of time called down the curtain, and all that is left of the once flourishing metropolis is the little town of Sar. The shifting sand has filled the once spacious harbor. The crown of Tyre passed to Carthage. That was in the days of slow-moving ships, propelled by oars or sails. Then supremacy went to Venice, in Italy; next to Hamburg and the leagued Teutonic cities of the Baltic; then Portugal became the great seafaring country; followed by Spain, the discoverer of America, and Spain was a great power; following supremacy passed to Holland; then up to 1914, to Great Britain.

Now the eighth country—America—is on top. Previous to 1914 England was the richest world nation, and we owed it so much money that the annual interest was \$300,000,000. Before the war we owed four billion dollars abroad.

Now America is the richest nation and the financial centre. We possess one-third of the total wealth of the world.

Before the Great War English ships dominated the sea and England built more ships each year than any other country. When our ship-building programme ends in 1920 we will have more ships than England.

The world is in need of raw material. While we have but 6 per cent of the population of the world, and have about 7 per cent of the landed area of the world, we have the raw material. Get that big fact into your mind.

We produce 7 per cent. of the world's copper; 65 per cent of the petroleum; 75 per cent of the corn; 60 per cent of the cotton; 50 per cent of the coal; 40 per cent of the iron and steel; 35 per cent of the silver; 20 per cent of the gold; 60 per cent of the lead; 25 per cent of the wheat; 85 per cent of the automobiles; 75 per cent of the phosphates; but to call off the full list of materials we produce would be to name almost all the natural resources of the earth.

We have more miles of railroad, more schools, more newspapers, and more banks than any other country. We invented the steamship, the reaper and mower, the sewing machine, anaesthetics, the telegraph, the typewriter, rubber clothing, the electric light, the bicycle, the submarine, sleeping and dining cars, the automobiles, the motion picture machine, the sand blast, the type-setting machine, the ice machine, calculating machines, shoes, clothing, metal and woodworking machines, cold storage, the canning of meats, fruits and vegetables, condensed milk, and many score by-products and utilities that are now absolutely essential to a tolerable existence.

In science art, medicine, literature, statesmanship, education, and philanthropy, our country has given wonderful achievements and contributions to the progress of mankind.

Since Solomon built his temple 30 centuries ago, in a city now after hundreds of years in Christian hands, the Torch of Leadership has been seized by one country after another in Europe until now it has been taken by the central country of the New World, a country inhabited by the best fed, best clothed

When Workers L'arn Their Lesson

By W. H. STOBBER Spokane Lodge, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

When you've worked an' toiled an' sweated
Fer forty year, an' more,
An' the wolf is still a-howlin'
An' scratchin' at yer door;
An' yuh find that Old Prosperity's
Arrivin' purty late:
Don't it kind o' start yuh thinkin'
Thet yuh should co-operate?

When yer boy's jest right fer college
An' yer girl fer boardin' school;
An' yuh find you're short of savin's
As is giner'ly the rule
An' yuh feel that you've been handed
Sich a nasty jolt by Fate;
Don't yuh wish thet you'd l'arned sooner
How yuh could co-operate?

Some'll say it isn't proper
Fer workin' folks to live,
With their left hands out a-graspin'
What their right hands hev to give;
But "Big Business" knows ez I do,
That there's truth in what I state;
When the workers l'arn their lesson
They will ALL co-operate.

best housed, best educated, and best amused people in all the world—a people with one speech, with one flag, one Constitution and one purpose.

1900 PER CENT PROFIT OF ARMOURS IN THE FOUR WAR YEARS

(Labor, Washington, D.C.)

In 1916 the capital stock of Armour & Co., member of the "Big Five" packing house trust in Chicago, was \$20,000,000. This week it will have been increased to \$400,000,000, according to an announcement which appeared on the financial page of the New York Times, issue of July 7.

This is an increase of 1,900 per cent in four years without investment of a single additional dollar.

After paying regular dividends this immense excess profit remained and was converted into stock dividends in order to escape payment of war taxes. This is permitted under a recent ruling of the United States Supreme Court, which held that stock dividends are not subject to taxation as excess profits. Also it is "legalized" through the connivance of Attorney General Palmer and the Department of Justice under an agreement reached between the Attorney General and the packers for withdrawal of suits which had been entered under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Why Plucking Is Easy

Attorney General Palmer gave the packers a "clean bill of health" and said they constituted a good trust. It is easy to pluck the public when the pluckers control the governmental authorities.

While this extortionate profit is thus publicly admitted by Armour & Co., there no doubt are other hidden profits in the packing-house industry.

In announcing the above recapitalization Armour & Co. last week cut another big melon equal to 100 per cent on its common stock, practically all of which is held by members of the Armour family.

Increasing Capital Stock

In October, 1916, the capital stock of Armour & Co. was increased from \$20,000,000 to \$100,000,000, and the additional \$80,000,000 stock created at that time was given to shareholders. This came as a stock dividend of 400 per cent, going exclusively to the Armour family.

Again, on August 23, 1918, the capital stock was increased, this time to \$210,000,000. This was done by advancing the volume of common stock to \$150,000,000 and the creation of an issue of \$60,000,000 authorized preferred stock.

The Public Will Pay

Therefore it will be seen that during the four great profiteering war years Armour & Co. have boosted their capital stock from \$20,000,000 to \$400,000,000, an increase of \$380,000,000 or 1900 per cent, without the investment of a dollar.

Henceforth and forevermore purchasers of Armour and Co. products will pay a price that will guarantee at least 7 per cent to the members of the Armour family on this inflated capital stock. In the meantime these same purchasers will continue to pay the war debt, while members of the Armour family escape their just burden through the kindness of the United States Supreme Court and the Department of Justice.

On Pancakes—Oh My! Lantic Old Fashioned Brown Sugar



They just melt in your mouth when you butter them generously and sprinkle freely with Lantic Brown. Ask your grocer for Lantic Brown today.

12

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Trade Unions And Ex-Service Men

THE Railroader has pleasure in giving space to Mr. Bernard Rose's answer to the editorial of July 17 which dealt with Mr. Rose's attack on some British trade unions for refusing employment to ex-service men. Whether Mr. Rose is more fully informed about trade union conditions and practice than I am, is a matter that may be left to Railroader readers; the majority of whom are trade unionists or others interested in the labor movement and social progress generally from various standpoints. I know that my intimate acquaintance with trade unionism began when I was about nine years of age, and I had the memorable experience of starving, in as genteel a manner as possible, as a small contribution towards modifying the Pecksniffian autoeracy of a gentleman who locked out his employees, including my father, for a period of fourteen weeks or so; and that it has been fairly continuous, and constantly growing more intimate, ever since.

Mr. Rose does not see the connection with the lawyers' union in the matter. He tells, however, that lawyers have to "serve their time", so to speak; so that the ex-service man without experience has no more chance of getting into the legal trade union right away than into any of the British trade unions referred to. If by some freak of cir-

cumstance an untrained ex-service man were allowed to work at the legal business, possibly the lawyers might "strike", too.

If an ex-service man without training and without complying with the various other conditions of the legal business would be refused employment in the legal business, why should Mr. Rose insist on trade unions accepting without conditions any untrained ex-service man who comes along? If it is not done in Mr. Rose's business, the legal business, why rave because it is not done in others? The point made was that in the very few instances where British trade unions had refused employment to ex-service men, there were reasons just as substantial as the legal trade union would give against accepting a novice as a full-fledged barrister simply because that novice was an ex-service man.

Trade unions generally have given the square deal to returned men: in nearly all cases they have made special provision of one sort or another for them. The returned man will always get a decent hearing from a trade union; if his experience with trade unions were the general experience, there would not be so many complaints from men who, having served their country in war, are entitled to have it safeguard their interests in peace.

K. C.

The Young Man's Best Recommendation

A Savings Account is more than a start towards financial independence—it is a mark of character.

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MONTREAL

Following is Mr. Rose's letter, which closes the subject::
Editor,

Canadian Railroader.

I would have much appreciated your having sent me a copy of your issue of the 17th, containing an editorial in which I am given a great deal of prominence. True, it is tinged with bits of sarcasm to which a busy letter writer like myself becomes accustomed. To this of course I have no objection. I regret that you think I have solved many public questions to my own satisfaction. These are as difficult of solution as the means to be adopted to reduce the price of paper.

Had the writer of the editorial given the matter that I discussed any thought; if he was at all acquainted with conditions, he would not so hastily have jumped into print. Unfortunately, the "Railroader" being so important a Journal, must be careful of its space, and limits me to that taken up by the editorial mentioned.

I have nothing to apologize for in connection with the letter I wrote. If you are prepared to give me the space, I will give you instances of the arbitrary conduct of certain trade unions in the Old Country, altogether apart from those mentioned by Colonel Hurst, whom I quoted. The attitude of the trade unions in Great Britain, who have acted in the manner to call forth the denunciation of Colonel Hurst and General Haig, is still being severely criticized.

You refer to my not specifying conditions, if I know them at all. Perhaps you will permit me to say that I know as much of trade union conditions and trade union practices as the writer.

As to local conditions, if you will be good enough to refer to the Gazette of June 30th, 1919, you will be enlightened. Personally, I know of one instance where a strike was threatened by the men in the factory because a returned man was employed. As to the subject being two years old in Britain, I refer him to the Gazette of February 19th, of this year. He might as well look up the Manchester Weekly Guardian of January 23rd, 1920. The London Spectator, of October 11th, 1919, contains a letter by Mr. James Bak-

er, which will also furnish information to "K. C." Almost every number of "John Bull", one of the widest read English weeklies, contains an item referring to the refusal of certain trade unions to treat the ex-service men with common decency.

I fail to see what purpose is served by referring to the Lawyers' Union. "K. C." knows very little about it, and he has put his foot into it this time. The Lawyers' Union admits to membership any and all persons who pass the examination. It does not fear competition through the increasing number who may be called to the Bar. If there were thousands of ex-service men who had undergone a course of training, as so many ex-service men have, and passed the examination, they would readily be admitted. As a matter of fact special legislation was passed whereby students were admitted to the practise of law by simply passing an oral examination. Have the unions criticized done as well and better? The Bar Association is not a union. It makes rules concerning the conduct of its members and the conditions governing membership, but it would not dare refuse membership on the paltry grounds given by certain trade unions.

As to discrimination against returned men, if you would take the trouble of speaking to a goodly percentage you might find that they have a grievance.

I am not going to condemn all unions for the sins of some, but where unions or union men discriminate against the returned men they must expect to be subjected to criticism. The railroad organizations in this country treated the returned man with the respect he deserves. If their example was followed there would be no cause for fault finding. Mr. Frank Griffard informs me that the Metal and Building Trades Union offers special facilities to the returned man. In fact they do all they can to give him a chance. Let us hope for the good of all concerned, no ground of complaint will be given the returned men and his friends as a result of any discrimination by any union in Canada.

Bernard Rose.

Results of Farmer-Labor Coalition in Ontario As Seen By Railroad Man

(By R. WHALLEY, in magazine of Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.)

Lately I have been reading in the Magazine letters from all over the continent advising our members to qualify themselves to vote, and to prepare for the coming elections. This is really very important and every man must not only do so himself, but in this respect must truly make himself "his brother's keeper." Every man should make up his mind right now that elections are not won just by voting. There are a multitude of tasks which have to be performed during a campaign and every man and woman will be needed if success is to be ours. The most essential qualification, however, is the ability to work hard, takes lots of abuse, and come up smiling.

Since my last contribution to the Magazine, "A Political Revolution", there have been so many interesting developments in the labor movements in Ontario, that I believe a brief review of these developments will be of interest to our members all over the continent. Labor has made more substantial progress, and will derive more real benefits, from the legislation of the present session of the Provincial Parliament, than from any previous ten years in history. Last fall Labor elected eleven labor members and one soldier member to the legislature. The soldier lined up with Labor and this group forming a coalition with the farmers gives them a majority in the House of three. The results have clearly demonstrated that the only way for Labor is to stand solidly aloof from all the old political parties, and to put up straight Labor candidates,

on a Labor ticket, for all public offices.

To demonstrate that the landslide last fall was not a "flash in the pan," but was a real determination on the part of the producing classes of Canada to take matters into their own hands instead of allowing the privileged interests to continue fattening on the work of the people and the natural resources of the country, the farmers have elected several members, and Labor one member, to the Federal House of Commons at Ottawa, through bye-elections.

During the Labor candidate's campaign, the opposition, realizing they were fighting with their backs to the wall, brought their heavyweights from all parts of the country. They played dirty tactics, drew red herrings across the trail, in fact, put up such a fight as has never been known in a bye-election. The producing classes, however, have had enough of the kind of government that has been given them in the past, and the returned soldiers, the farmers, and industrial workers stood solid. The result of the poll was: Labor, 5,293 votes; Liberal, 3,103 votes; Conservative, 3,060 votes. This is significant of the trend of feeling all over the country. It is now pretty generally conceded that the Farmer-Labor combination can win everywhere when the general elections take place.

The Independent Labor Party held its convention at London, Ont., a short time ago. There were delegates present from all parts of the Province, and any doubt which may have ex-

isted as to the breadth and spirit of the Labor movement was immediately dispelled. It really was heartening to see a whole row of real Labor men, actual workers, representing Labor. Labor knows exactly what it wants and how to get it. Labor also will see to it that the only class to suffer in the process will be that of the privileged interests.

A large amount of important business was dealt with. Space will not

permit of an account of the whole convention, so we will just look at two of the most important resolutions. The first was a resolution calling on the Dominion or Federal Government to introduce into all schools a textbook dealing with international history in an unbiased manner, this to have a tendency to do away with the imperialistic and militaristic character of the present teaching, and thereby be in keeping with the spirit of the League of Nations. This resolution carried without one dissenting vote. The second resolution called for the gradual elimination of taxation on the necessities of life, and application to such things as unearned increment, land values, large corporations, etc.

The capitalist press immediately shouted free trade, class legislation, etc. This is nothing of the kind. It is simply a removal of taxation from the necessities of life to the working class, which they pay at present indirectly, through tariff taxation, and making up the necessary revenue from those who sit back and speculate in land, stocks and bonds, draw dividends, etc., and who take no part in beneficial production. Each plank in the Labor platform was gone into thoroughly and, with the two above additions, was adopted. This gives the Labor party of Ontario a platform than which none in the world is more progressive. Coupled with the spirit which has been manifested and the will to carry it out, one can see the emancipation of Labor drawing nearer.



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To those of the brothers who are interested in the Co-operative stores, the fact that the Farmer-Labor movement is not stopping at political action, but is also organizing its combined strength into a co-operative buying and selling organization, should prove gratifying. This organization will consist of members of the different soldiers' organizations, trade unions, union farmers' co-operative clubs. It will be backed by the United Farmers Co-operative Co. This company expects to have a turnover of business this year of thirty million dollars. Just as soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed the Farmer-Labor Co-operative stores will be launched in all towns and cities in Ontario where the required support can be found. While it is not just in line with the Rochdale plan, it certainly will be a long step toward making conditions better for the workers, and eliminating that octopus which at the present time has its tentacles fastened to the workers wherever they are — the middleman. With the splendid buying and selling machinery which has been built up by the U. F. Co-op. Co. at its disposal, there is not the least doubt as to the success of the new movement.

One could fill volumes writing of the things which this present government "of, by and for the people" is doing or trying to do. So I will content myself with merely mentioning those which are directly beneficial to

industrial workers in the towns and cities. It has abolished the property qualifications in municipal elections. That is, a man will no longer have to own a certain amount of property to qualify for municipal office, as in the past. This is one of the many barriers that have kept so many intelligent men of the Labor movement out of our different municipal governments. It has introduced a bill into the House of Commons and appointed a commission to investigate thoroughly minimum wages for women workers.

This will not be like so many of our commissions have been in the past, draw a salary and do nothing. It is composed of three men and two women who are actuated by a desire to do all they can for Labor, so we may be assured that women will soon be getting sufficient wages to live properly and decently.

The Government has introduced a bill providing for pensions for widows with children, making it a duty of the state to see that the children, who have been unfortunate enough to lose their fathers, will have proper care and education, and thus give them the same start in life as other children. It has amended the Workmen's Compensation Act to give beneficiaries under the act an approximate increase from 55 per cent of the wages to 66 2-3 per cent of the wages; increasing the funeral benefit from \$75 to \$125, and setting a minimum of \$12 per week to any person whatsoever coming under the act. There has also been a host of small bills, such as giving the civic firemen one day off in seven, which one could write about, but these are sufficient to give the brothers an idea of what can be accomplished.

If these men, honestly representing Labor, can accomplish so much, what can we accomplish when we get the majority to which we are entitled, in all public governing bodies, year after year? Is it worth while? Decide for yourself and act accordingly.

**CIVIL SERVANTS
IN OTTAWA HAVE
UNION CHARTER**

July, 19 witnessed the advent of a new unit in the ranks of the trades and labor movement of Ottawa, composed of a large number of civil servants who, working under

cover, have secured a charter from the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which was handed to them by President Tom Moore. The unit will be known as the "Association of Federal Employees of Ottawa." Application for the charter was made to the Congress two weeks ago, and is backed by one hundred members of the civil service from different departments of the Government service, who have already selected a temporary set of officers and a working executive until the new union finds its feet.

The new union is organized along the lines of the National Federation of Civil Servants of the United States and is affiliated with the A. F. of L., but has a clause in its charter by which its members will not be involved in any trades union disputes which may arise.

By the terms of its charter, the Association of Federal Employees is open for membership to any employee of the Government who has seen service for six months or more in any department except those employees who are already members of organizations affiliated with the trades and labor movement, such as the postal clerks and letter carriers. The only bar to membership otherwise will be in the case of heads of departments or deputy ministers in whose power lies the hiring or dismissing of employees. This reservation has been made so as not to disturb the semi-confidential relationship which the civil service enjoys at present with the Government.

CANNOT ORDER STRIKE

President Tom Moore of the Trades and Labor Congress, stated that the new organization was formed along the lines of the trades and labor movement instead of being an association, as is the Civil Service Federation, a large number of whose members have gone over to the ranks of organized labor.

"I want it to be distinctly understood," said President Moore, "that no member of this new organization will be at any time called upon to take issue in any trades dispute which may arise. The word 'strike' will not be in its category, and the Trades and Labor Congress will not have power to order, authorize or sanction one. It will be conducted along similar lines to the National Federation of Civil Servants in the United States."

The new and somewhat unexpected move is the outcome of the strong sentiment which was voiced by a large number of the delegates at the Civil Service Federation convention held last August, which was favorable to joining the civil service with the organized labor movement. Action at that time, however, was vetoed by the majority of the convention, on the understanding that the question would again be dealt with at this year's convention.

Mr. W. J. Frank James, clerk in the enquiry division of the Post Office Department, is the provisional president of the new union.

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Clearing The Way For Youth

By Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher,

Wife of the President of the British Board of Education.

At what point in the circle of life can we best concentrate in our efforts to improve the race? Where are the weakest points, and where have we most chance of success?

Half a generation ago and more we realised that from the physical point of view the first year of life was not only one of the most vital but also one of the most dangerous, and out of modest beginnings we are building up a splendid system of infant welfare, of which we have every right to be proud, incomplete through it yet is.

Earlier far than that we began to realise the importance of the child, and again, out of small beginnings, ragged schools and the like, we have gradually evolved a system of elementary education which has done more than most people realize, for the welfare of our people. It, too, is incomplete and capable of vast expansion, improvement, and development.

But it is hardly an exaggeration to say that the country awoke, under the stimulus of war, as never before, to a realization of what education might mean, and to a determination to make it mean more than it did.

There is a real stir in the educational world, and a real and active growth. More and more do we appreciate the urgency of caring for

the child from its birth right up to the end of its period of training for adult life and citizenship, more and more do we mean to give to every child the opportunity to develop itself to the very highest of which it is capable.

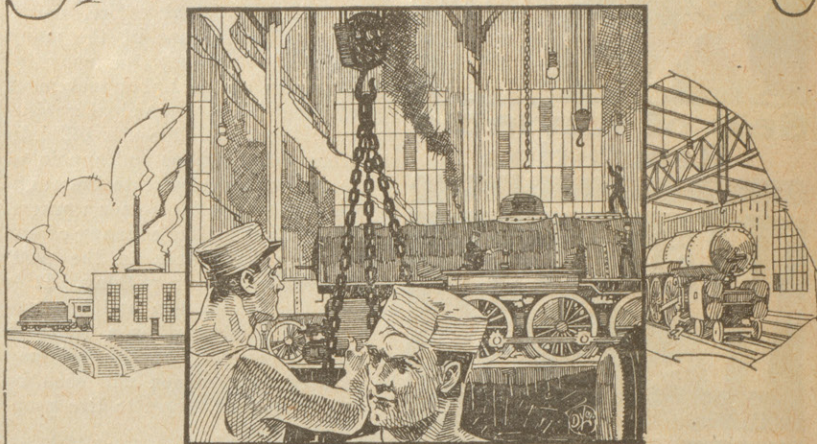
But at an early stage in the growth of infant welfare schemes we began to realise that no work which concentrated on the child only would avail, because its prosperity was inextricably bound up with, and dependent on, that of its mother. The mother is the essential, urgent part of the baby's environment.

When we began to realize this, it meant that our work must stretch back and forward, and was even more complicated than we had at first supposed.

We are now, for instance, anxiously thinking about the care of the mother before the birth of her child. We have arrived at a point where we feel that while we have much of the knowledge which, if we choose to apply it, will enable us to diminish still further the deaths of infants in the first year of life and to diminish also at the same time the disablement or enfeeblement of many of those who survive, yet there is one very weak point in our equipment, the deaths still remaining deplorably numerous of babies in the first weeks, in the first days, of life. This is a problem upon which much work needs to be done.

But here, again, we are driven still farther back. For the welfare

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of the mother in the months which precede the birth of her child obviously depends largely upon the father. We must enlarge our circle.

The mother is all-important; she is everything almost to the child; but we find that we cannot consider her alone, any more than we can consider the babe. We must think of the father, of the home, of all the surroundings. We have indeed a long road to travel, and the scenery is anything but monotonous.

The welfare of the child, and with it the welfare of the race, of our national life, of all that we hold dear—that is what we have to ensure. Another step back seems indicated.

What are we doing for youth? What opportunities are there for full, free, sound development of mind and heart, no less than of body, for the young people who were but yesterday children, who will be tomorrow parents themselves, and upon whom so much must depend?

In some ways this problem is more urgent, and at the same time more difficult, now than it has perhaps ever been. There is always a gap between the young and the middle-aged. It is never easy for the parent quite to understand what the young people, conscious of their growing powers, inclined to be impatient of the middle-aged attitude towards life, would be at.

Only the very few really carry into middle life a vivid remembrance, a

real appreciation of the needs and difficulties of youth. In the nature of things it is impossible for the young to understand the position of the middle-aged. They can at best take them on trust, believing that they mean to help, and remembering the help they have already given.

It is an old story, but it is retold every day, and to the persons involved it never loses its freshness. Parents long to control, to advise, to use their knowledge. Youth longs to explore, to see for itself, to experience. It does not want to depend upon the experience of others, even of the nearest and most sympathetic.

But if this is an old difficulty, how much more acute it is at the moment! For between the youth of to-day and their parents lies the great gap of the war.

(Continued on page 15.)

THE OLD RELIABLE

MINARD'S

"KING OF PAIN"

LINIMENT

YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

The parents have lived most of their lives in another world, in the world of those pre-war days. Its standards, its customs, necessarily seem to them the normal; those of the modern young people the abnormal, the exceptional. It is extraordinarily hard for them to adjust themselves to separate what is passing and unimportant from what is real and permanent in the changes that bewilder us all.

Unlearning Middle-age.

Then again the young people have themselves experienced so much that was unknown to their parents. It is often they, and not the elders, who have wide vistas behind them, who have learnt things about human nature which were not disclosed in the days of peace.

So that the impatience of the young for the middle-aged point of view, the bewilderment and sometimes the reprobation of the elder towards the attitude of the young, is more marked than before.

Young women began to win their freedom in the days of the safety bicycle; they and their brothers have it now in full measure, and through the swing of the pendulum may bring reaction, it is probable that they will retain a position very unlike that of the Victorian youth or maiden.

Youth is free, independent, perhaps a little arrogant and rash. It would hardly be youth if it were not

rash. But such is the mechanism of the world that power administration is mainly in the hands of the middle-aged.

It is we who must still endeavor to provide care and education, with all that it implies, for the children, we who must so organize life that what often seems to us the undisciplined activities and energies of youth may have safe and healthy outlets.

We have no right to complain of their wild ways, of their noise, of hooliganism, of the impertinence of the modern girl, the intractability of the modern boy, when we have done so little to provide for their real wants.

Nor again can we blame them for the worse evils of which we begin to be conscious and, let us hope, to be ashamed.

It is we who are to blame. What have we done to give them what they demand? What regard have we paid to the essential needs of youth? How much even have we thought about them, and tried to understand, to remember?

Fortunately, though the problem is urgent it is anything but insoluble. We have a wealth of experience, through the war, which will give us splendid help. The young people then took great responsibilities, did continuous and strenuous work, made terrific sacrifices, took unheard-of risks, with a cheerfulness and matter of factness which we all remember, which we can never cease to admire.

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And we learnt something of their needs. Those who were responsible for their health and well-being discovered the importance of games, music, dancing. Perhaps it would be truer to say that those who knew the importance of these things at last were able to make use of their knowledge, and were no longer overborne by the others, still powerful among us, who have kept the narrowness of Puritanism, and not all of whom possesses its compensating fervour of belief, its tremendous moral power.

Scope for splendid race.

It is not enough to forbid and to disapprove. Even more important is it to encourage, to give scope and opportunity. Here, then, is a task to which we must turn our hands, if we are to do what we ought, what we would wish, for the splendid race to which we are so proud to belong.

We begin to understand the importance of the infant, of the child,

and we are gradually evolving plans of infant and child welfare which may work wonders. But the needs of the adolescent, of young men and women, are still imperfectly understood, inadequately met.

Thought, devotion, and understanding must be given to them as it has been, and will continue to be, given to the demands of the children. We have splendid guide posts to show us the way: the clubs movement, the real genius for youth which invented Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and much else.

Let us give real work, then, so that it may no longer be possible to say with any semblance, however dim, of truth, that for young people in the villages there is no amusement, and for young people in the towns there is plenty, but it is all bad.

This is not true to-day, but it is too near truth to be pleasant. Let us remove it altogether!

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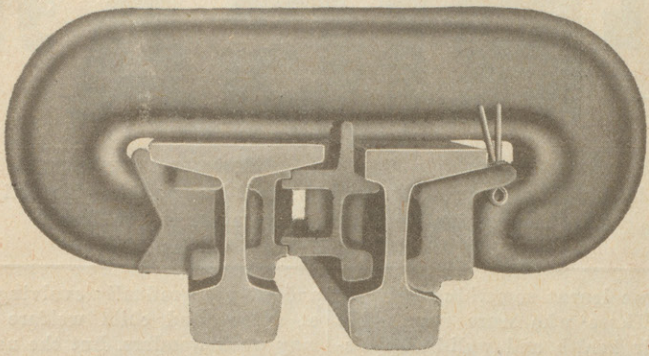
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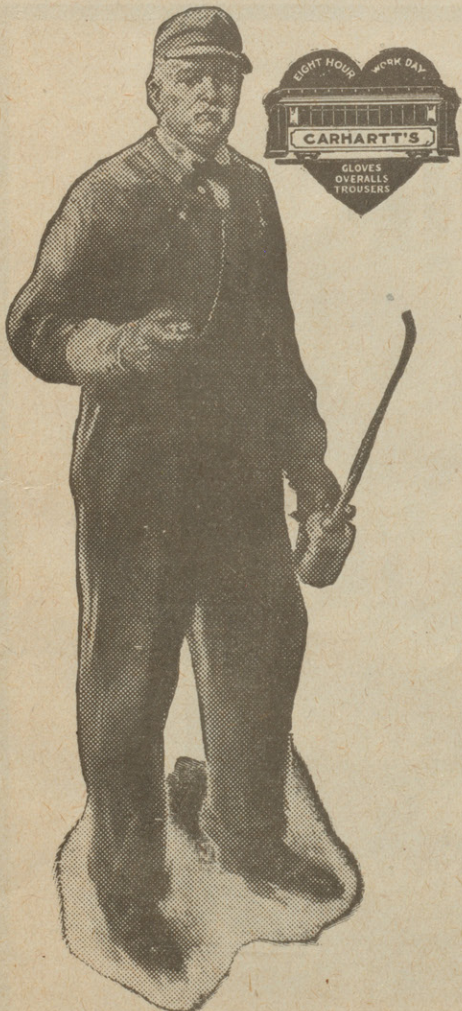
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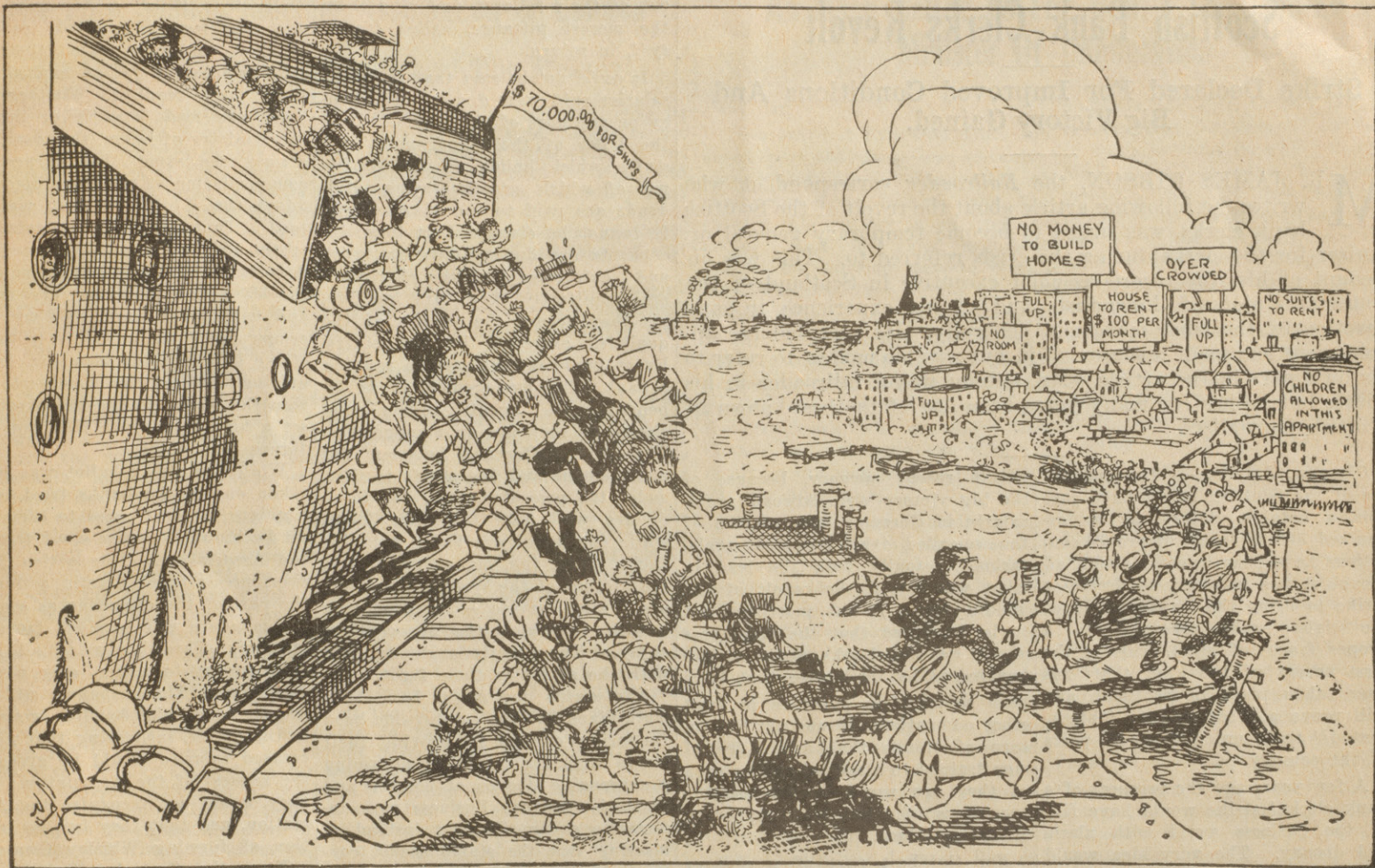
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Immigrants—"Where Do We Go From Here?"

—The Veteran, Toronto.

**VARSITY DEGREE FOR
MR. J. H. THOMAS.
Railwaymen's Leader Honored
at Cambridge.**

Premier Lloyd George and Mr. J. H. Thomas, the railwaymen's leader, were among the prominent public men on whom honorary degrees were conferred at Cambridge recently.

Others included Admiral Earl Beatty, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher (President of the Board of Education), Viscount Burnham, Lord Robert Cecil, and Sir Donald Maclean.

The procession through the streets to the Senate House was witnessed by a large and enthusiastic gathering, and a distinguished company was present at the ceremony, over which Mr. A. J. Balfour, as Chancellor, presided.

The proceedings throughout were of an orderly description, differing somewhat from the customary boisterous proceedings of undergraduates at similar functions in the past.

Mr. Glover the orator in introducing the recipients of degrees to the Chancellor dealt in a witty manner

with the outstanding characteristics of the guests.

Nature gave Britain to Celt and Saxon, he remarked, in introducing Mr. Lloyd George. To the Celt she gave a nimble mind, charm, eloquence, and imagination; to the Saxon other virtues useful, if humbler. How much they owed to this blending they all knew.

A welcome cheer greeted Mr. J. H. Thomas. The orator said he had carried parcels when a boy, cleaned engines as a youth, and was now a member of Parliament. Mr. Thomas, by a word, stopped the carriage of everything, and when he had definitively made everything definite, with a word he set them free.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, remarked Mr. Glover, was almost driven into public life by the inheritance of his surname.

Referring to Earl Beatty, the orator compared Nelson's long blockade of Napoleon's fleet with the service of our admirals during the war.

—:o:—

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

(H.A.G. in the London Times).
Shall we have back the good old days.

Our grandsires and their nobler ways?—

The pressgang's soft inducement and
The highwayman who bade us stand;
The boy-sweep who in joyous pride
Thrust up his brush and gamely died;

The woman, leather-breeched, who
drew

The loaded coal truck, children, too;
Three-bottle men, their heads afire;
Jus primae noctis for the squire;

Death for a horse; the village stocks;

The bribe in place of ballot-box;

The soldier doomed, if poor, to find

The rich in front, himself behind;

The hunting parson, pink in church,

His hungry flock left in the lurch;

Dissenters forced to pay church dues,

But not allowed the church to use;

Papist and Jew in this allied,—

To both their civic right denied;

The tortured bear, the baited bull;
Cockfighting—horrors to the full;
The victim of ill-balanced mind
Like a wild beast in cage confined;
The gallows in the public eye,
With gaping crowds to see men die;—
Shall we have back the good old days
Our grandsires and their nobler ways?

—:o:—

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Scottish Bank Clerks Revolt

Strike Declared For Improved Conditions And Big Victory Gained.

MR. JAMES GIBSON, the *Railroader* correspondent who writes the following article about the revolt of the Scottish bank clerks, was urged to become temporary general organizer for the clerks during the crisis referred to. This was on account of his fine record as chief executive in Scotland of the National Union of Journalists and of his experience in, and devotion to, the labor movement generally. He accepted the appointment and made a success of it, but was too modest to refer to his own part in the article. Mr. Gibson was a railroader in his youth, but he has for many years been one of the best-known of Scottish journalists.

Glasgow, July 9. — The employees of the Scottish banks have just won a notable victory, as by organized effort vastly improved conditions have been brought about, although it was necessary to declare a strike to bring the managements of the eight banks concerned to a proper frame of mind. This is the first threat of the kind that has ever taken place in Scotland, and will prove a great lead to "black-coated" trade unionism in all parts of the country.

A few years ago the prospect of a bank clerks' strike would have filled the business world with alarm and dismay. The very idea would have suggested such a dislocation of business as was not to be contemplated, something in fact like a stoppage of the circulation in the commercial body of the nation. It was this very element that helped the employees to win public sympathy from the very first. A bank clerks' strike was not without precedent. The action of the Irish bank clerks in this direction is they could screw the utmost service

within recent memory, because of the big victory won. Abroad, particularly in Germany, this section of the so-called "black-coated proletariat" actually took the lead in what was styled the revolt of the middle class. It was, moreover, not to be imagined that the employees of the Scottish banks would remain unaffected by tendencies that have been so much in evidence in most other occupations. It was not the nature of things that any body of men trained to a special calling such as they are would remain passive spectators of what was happening all around them.

For the best part of a century prior to the formation of the Scottish Bankers' Association, which is registered as a trade union, in 1919, the modern phase of banking held undisputed sway. During that period the capital side had full time and ample means to build up an equitable, enduring relationship with their staffs, but they preferred to live for the moment, content if they could screw the utmost service

out of their fellows, and give them the merest pittance, called "salary", in return.

It could not be said that the small salaries paid were due to inefficiency on the part of the staffs. It is the labor of the management and staffs which builds up the profits out of which ever-increasing dividends are paid to the shareholders. It cannot be claimed that these increments are due to the "initiative and enterprise" of the shareholders; securely they are inactive, yet they secure the results of the qualities exercised by the staffs. Every grade is necessary in running a bank. The management is as dependent on agents, tellers and clerks, as they are on management. The only difference between the management and the staffs is that, under the present regime, the former are well paid for their labor, while the latter are badly paid for theirs. Yet the management, too, are victims of the system, since they are giving service — or producing wealth — which the shareholders enjoy. They really ought to join with the staffs in their fight.

The status quo might have been maintained had the capital side been far-seeing enough to provide their staffs with the means of obtaining a reasonable degree of comfort and economic security. Business men underwrite every risk, but instead of insuring that the staffs should continue getting the gain for them, the banks drove the men to extremities born of desperate need.

Although unstinted and unmeasured service was given by the staffs during the war, although the cost of living increased by 120% even before the armistice, only a tithe was given by way of a bonus. While the banks added to their reserves, the staffs had to draw on their slender resources to eke out a living. Many men, having exhausted their means, were forced to review the whole position between capital and labor, and were driven to the conclusion that though they acted as gentlemen, that they had not been treated as such, and they must now "cut out the swank", and look after themselves by organizing, as the manual workers and many thousands of the brain workers had done before them.

Brave men came forward and took the initial steps, and the Scottish Bankers' Association was brought into existence. The advantages already got from the Association have been many. While little salary addition was made prior to 1918 against the increased cost of living, considerable advance has been made since the association make itself felt. This is not surprising seeing that within eighteen months the membership grew to over 5,000. There has been great freedom gained for the staffs. It seems a far cry to the days when men feared to send even a "round-robin" to the manager, yet that obtained as recently as 1918, when there was no Association.

As bank men have found that, in-

dividually, their gentlemanly conduct has been ill-required, so also in their corporate action their pacific approaches to the capital side have been repelled. Whether the move was made directly or through the Ministry of Labor, the result was always the same. The earnest recommendation of the Government to adopt the Whitley scheme was vetoed. This refusal to recognize the spirit of the times has forced the Association to the conclusion that the days for parleying are ended, and with great emphasis they "recommended" the executive to take a strike ballot of the members. In requiring 80% of the membership to sign the ballot pledge the executive set a high standard. Well over this figure was obtained.

While the strike ballot was being taken one of the banks tried to intimidate the staff, and to their credit be it said the men stood firm by the Association. This action, however, precipitated drastic action on the part of the executive as soon as the mandate was received from the members. Throwing aside all legal questions as to notice, only a week was given. The managers at once issued very high-handed circulars to the staffs, intimating that no increased salaries would be given at the request of the Association; that they would not recognize the Association, and that they had no intention of forming Whitley Councils.

From the first day the Association won, because of the help given by the organized workers of the country. The "black faces" were out to assist the "black coats", and within four days the Government got alarmed on the question of currency. Every trade union was lifting so as to be able to carry on during the strike, and be in a position to pay their workers. Two days before the strike was to begin all the banks intimated substantial increases of salaries, but they declined to recognize the Association. The Ministry of Labor intervened and four agreed to have a joint conference, while three intimated their willingness to meet representatives of their own staff, while the eighth would do nothing. The Ministry of Labor promised to do everything to bring all the banks together if the executive would call off the strike. The executive agreed to postpone the strike until this conference was arranged. In view of the improved conditions that had been obtained and the fact that at least partial recognition had been obtained it was felt that the Association had nothing to lose by this action, particularly as the public had been with them all through. The efforts of the Ministry of Labor are now directed towards a settlement, and this can only be by the setting up of Whitley Councils — if not now they are bound to come later. The Association put up a good fight for the "black coats" and the success obtained will undoubtedly help forward the movement. It is felt that only by trade union organization can success come to any class of workers.

JAMES GIBSON.

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The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

Its Only Aim Is The Welfare of The Masses.

The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the men who make its laws, and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada exists to see to it that the workers by hand and brain are directly represented in the law-making bodies of the Dominion; to find, train and elect the right men of our own class in order to secure the kind of legislation that will protect and advance the interests of the workers.

It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges, and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES:—

To support all municipal, provincial and federal educational plans where the evident purpose is to raise the standard of education in enlightened and progressive ways; to present truthfully and fearlessly through the medium of Fifth Sunday Meetings and our own press, the "Canadian Railroader", the latest and most important political, social and industrial developments;

To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

To advocate freedom of speech and of the press, and a law compelling all newspapers and periodicals to publish in all issues a complete list of shareholders and bondholders.

"The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada" is financed entirely by its members who contribute \$2 a year in membership fees. If a local has been established in your city \$1 remains in the local treasury and the other dollar is sent by the local organization to our Dominion Headquarters, 60 Dandurand Building, Montreal, Que. In case no local has been established in your community, send the membership fee of \$2 directly to Dominion Headquarters.

The funds accumulating in the Dominion Headquarters are used for political and educational propaganda; the development of the organization; the preparation of pamphlets and leaflets and the financing of the various political campaigns where favorable opportunities develop, to elect our candidates. The treasurer is under bond and the books are audited by a firm of accountants.

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An Open Letter To The Hon. J. A. CALDER Minister Of Immigration

Dear Sir,

Recently it appeared from the newspapers that there was some dispute concerning the deportation of three men from Poland, who had entered this country in an irregular manner, and the chief argument pressed for allowing them to remain here was that they would be shot if they returned to their native land, as they were deserters from military duty. It does credit to your human nature that you listened to this argument instead of that of the lawyer for the Crown, who contended that Canada had nothing to do with the result to the men, but had to carry out her own laws.

A precedent is undoubtedly a dangerous thing. Having taken one step in this direction, may I be permitted to suggest that there is another case which is quite as good or bad as it may be interpreted. There are three sturdy Scotsmen at this moment incarcerated in Bordeaux jail for the crime of having entered this country as stowaways. It is said that they are healthy, clean men, just the type that it is your business to attract to this country. Presumably they had not the capital wherewith to pay their ship's fare, let alone to show twenty-five dollars. But evidently they had some of that resourcefulness and pluck which are so much wanted in Canada.

I do not hold any brief for the Scots, coming, as I do, from the county of Northumberland, which fought them for many years in past centuries; yet I would like to point out that one of the first phrases that the old countryman learns on coming to this Dominion is "to get there". Evidently these Scots had learned this much, and they endured the hardships of an ocean voyage in the process.

Some other Penalty.

The proposal I have to make is this; that the penalty for stowaways shall be altered when they are found to be otherwise healthy subjects. If a man is healthy in body and mind and capable of working,

and has the grit to so love your country that he endures discomfort in order to enter it, why not utilize him? True, he owes his passage money. Very well; make him repay it to the steamship company. Why not place him out with one of these farmers who were willing to bring over Irish laborers for the harvest, and put him on his honor to stay there, and take your own precautions, too? Then dock his wages until his passage is paid. If your stowaway is physically or mentally unfit, then you will be justified in sending him back. Even then, I fail to see any reason why Canada should bear a further burden by keeping him in jail for a month before shipping him home. As a prison reformer, I am against the system of keeping any man in a cell eating away the public money. But above all, I fail to see why we are taxed to maintain an immigration department to induce suitable settlers and why when in an irregular channel we obtain what may be useful, we should nationally cut off our nose to spite our face by sending them back. It may be because I have just been reading Tolstoi's "Resurrection" that these sentiments are welling up. In penal matters what Tolstoi wrote of Russia, applies equally to Canada.

I have the honor to be.

Your humble servant

John Kidman.

Montreal, July 26th, 1920.

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Our OTTAWA LETTER

The Premier's Plans; By-Election Chances

(From Our Own Correspondent)

THE political world at Ottawa is now listless in a midsummer calm. It is the holiday season and more than half the Cabinet are absent from the Capital. Once or twice a week cabinet meetings are being held to dispose of routine matters, but no serious problems are being tackled. The new Premier is remaining at his post and has an enormous correspondence to deal with. Part of it probably consists of supplicants mingling requests for favors with their congratulations, and part of wise and sagacious men and women who would proffer their counsel to him in his difficult task.

He has had a large number of invitations to speak at various points, but has made no definite arrangements. His first utterance since he assumed his high office was made to the Board of Trade at Montreal and it was noticeable that he carefully eschewed all topics of a controversial character and made the need for toleration his main plea. In the near future he will probably pay a visit of duty of his old home town of St. Mary's in the Country of Perth, and later on he will repair to Portage La Prairie, where he began his legal and political career.

Portage has been faithful to Mr. Meighen since it first elected him in 1908, but he has always been fortunate in the poor calibre of the opposing candidates. However, he owes the electors of the division no small debt and it would be a fitting compliment that he should make his keynote speech in their midst. So some day soon we may see an announcement that a monster political picnic will be held in that venerable Manitoba town, where the faithful assemble to the sound of trumpets

and cymbals and will harken to the Hon. Arthur unfolding his plans and aspirations for our governance.

Mr. Meighen will probably not regret being deserted for the time being by most of the malcontent faction in his Cabinet, Messrs Calder, Reid and Co. To avoid an immediate upheaval and a general election, he had perforce to accept them as colleagues and kiss the hands "late raised to shed his blood". But the mutual distrust and jealousy must survive and cordial cooperation will always be difficult. The sense of personal loyalty is notoriously lacking among our present rulers.

One Minister has been going round Ottawa openly bewailing the mismanagement which allowed Mr. Meighen to land the Premiership. His story is that the Toronto interests had a complete assurance from Sir Thomas White that he would accept the Premiership if the offer came his way. They were astounded when he issued a statement saying acceptance of the post would be impossible for him and then proceeded to Ottawa to abet Mr. Meighen's candidature as he undoubtedly did.

This Minister holds the theory that if his Toronto friends had known that Sir Thomas White was not available they would have concentrated their forces in his support and elected him. He makes no secret of his pique and disappointment that his friends had not at their service a better intelligence department and neglected his interest so badly. In his narrative of woe he also conveys the decided impression that in his own estimation at least he would have been a much more satisfactory Premier than Mr. Meighen. For the latter, however, a gentleman who talks in this strain can

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hardly be a satisfactory helpmate.

Friends of the Government are advising Mr. Meighen to embark on a speechmaking tour at the earliest opportunity and try to convince the country that Union Government of evil fame has disappeared for ever and in its place there has arisen a brand new organisation which abounds in all the virtues and talents necessary for the salvation of our distracted country. Ladies whose reputation has suffered by their conduct often go to a far country, assume another name, and are received in the best society of the peace especially if they can marry some prosperous citizen. But this method of rehabilitation is not open to Governments, and there is little hope that Mr. Meighen can persuade the electorate in its present mood

that the new Cabinet will offer any different prospects from the old.

When he returned from his futile speechmaking trip to the riding of Temiskaming last spring our Premier is reported to have said that he found distrust and dislike of the Government was not as of yore a matter for argument and dispute between friends and neighbors but a settled conviction among whole communities. He is likely to have this impression deepened ere he travels very far throughout the country. However, now is the time for him to embark on such an enterprise. Mr. Calder will be safe in Britain for several months remodeling our immigration system in Europe and will presumably have no time for intrigue. If he were left behind in Ottawa by the Pre-

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mier while he went out to Vancouver to tell his tale, he would be a nervous wreck ere he crossed the Selkirks wondering what manner of political guile his colleague was compassing in his absence.

Mr. Meighen must be deeply interested in the impending by-elections. The officials at Ottawa are very busy preparing the machinery to operate the new Franchise Act. They have found several serious gaps in the fabric, but on the whole it offers the promise of decent elections. Yet the difficulties of constructing the new machinery render it improbable that any elections can be held before September. Even then contests will probably not be held in Peterboro and Yale. The time for holding the east Elgin by-election as prescribed by Mr. Jacobs' Act will soon have elapsed. This seat ought to be carried easily by the U.F.O. if they nominate a reasonably good candidate. The Ministerial elections will excite most interest and Mr. Mackenzie King has issued a statement urging that the new Ministers be vigorously opposed. It would be better for a Liberal to fight Mr. Wigmore in St. John and try to secure the alliance of Labor. But in any case, as was explained last week, the notorious partiality of St. John for Cabinet Ministers makes the prospect of defeating Mr. Wigmore very doubtful.

Colchester, Mr. McCurdy's seat, is traditionally Tory and is largely dominated by the Stansfield family. But it happens that the farmers have made great strides with their organization in that riding, and in the provincial election the Conservative candidates are being opposed not by Liberals but by farmers. For this reason anxious watch will be kept on the results in this constituency and from them some guidance may be secured of the new Minister's prospects of re-election. If the farmers carry the seat for the provincial House, there is no reason why their triumph should not be repeated in the Federal field and the defeat of Mr. McCurdy in such a seat would almost ring the deathknell of the Government.

The general result of this provincial election in Nova Scotia is being anxiously awaited by the politicians. They are afraid that it may reveal the fact that the spirit of protest against existing govern-



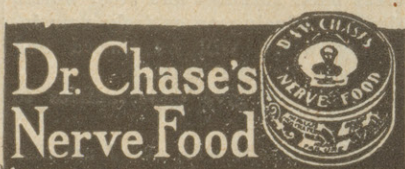
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ments is not confined to Ontario and Manitoba and that the Murray Government may find itself bereft of many seats. There is no expectation of a Conservative victory, but for the first time in the history of Nova Scotia the fight is not a straight contest. In numerous ridings farmers and labor candidates are intervening. If the result of the election parallels that of Manitoba and does

not show a clear-cut majority for any one party, supporters of the Government will be prompt to make use of it as an argument against a federal election on the ground that the same thing would occur there and that the calamity which the property classes consider so terrible and dignify as "instability" would result. They do not seem ever to realize that bad and inefficient government such as has been dispensed to us during the past two years is more productive of "instability" than anything else.

Much will depend upon the results of the five by-elections now impending. If the Government fare well in them, they will be confirmed in their determination to avoid contact with the electorate as long as possible but serious disasters will make their position untenable. The chances, however, that delay will better their political position, are very remote. On the surface there are symptoms that prices in certain lines are on the decline, but on the other hand the railways are now applying for a very large increase in freight rates which cannot fail to

enhance materially the cost of living and disturb profoundly the present basis of wage adjustments. We are now plunged in a hopelessly vicious circle in which wages are engaged in a perpetual and futile effort to catch up with prices and there will be no end to the fruitless chase till it is realized that some surgical operation must be performed upon the present economic system and particularly upon its machinery, for banking and credit misuse is responsible for many of our existing troubles.

The next enlivening event at Ottawa will be the Imperial Press Conference which opens in the early days of August. In our capital there will assemble several hundred of the newspaper fraternity, mostly proprietors, and they will dine and debate and dine largely at the expense of the Canadian people. The Conference will be a gathering without any authority and its chief function will be social. Some of the visitors will secure some personal education about Canadian conditions and others doubtless will have an opportunity of seeing how prohibition does not work.

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Queensland's Labor Government

Its crimes as reported by its youthful premier.

(Eric NORTHWOOD in The Clarion, London.)

Queensland, as our readers may know, is one of those unhappy states which have entrusted their direction to representatives of Labor. Queensland, in fact, has been under the heel of a labor tyranny for the past five years, and the groans of its oppressed people have been gram-ophoned into our ears from time to time by an indignant Press.

Ask a man in the street how things are going in Queensland, and supposing he knows anything at all about Queensland, he would certainly reply that "Queensland was going to the devil, all along of the Labor Government."

Now, Queensland is not going to the devil, for not many months ago Queensland came to London to borrow a couple of million pounds, and, in a few days, Queensland was offered six millions by people who do not invest their "savings" in too tropical climates.

At the present moment, Queensland is in London again, asking for three millions. When I heard of this audacious request on the part of a State "bankrupted by Labor legislation" (see the "Daily Catch") I determined to gaze upon the bloom-

ing cheek of Queensland's Labor Premier and ask him how it was done.

So it came to pass that I found myself in the palatial offices of the bankrupt State of Queensland, in the Strand, and in a few moments I was ushered into the presence of the chief magician, that is to say, Mr. E. G. Theodore, Labor Premier of Queensland.

Mr. Theodore is rather young for a Premier (he is not yet forty), but he is not too young to have known the Clarion when we were in the thick of propaganda pamphlets, and were, no doubt, *particeps criminis*, if not *flagrante delicto*, in the villainies he and his partners have perpetrated in Queensland during the last five years.

But the Premier of Queensland does not look like the representative of a bankrupt State. That, of course, may be his deep cunning. His youth, his dark dancing eyes, and his vigorous frame, may all be camouflage. We live in strange times. However, there he seemed to be—the alert representative of a flourishing community.

"Is it a bankrupt State?" I asked him.

"Well, not exactly," he replied,

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"or I shouldn't be here asking for three million pounds."

"And do you believe London will lend Queensland three millions?"

"Yes, I do," he replied, "though the conditions in the money market are not so favorable as they were last year when our two million loan was applied for three times over."

"And for what purposes do you require this capital — to fritter away on wild Socialistic experiments I suppose?"

"Certainly it is wanted for State enterprise," answered Mr. Theodore, "but the scheme is a perfectly sound one, and I have no doubt I shall be able to convince your people of that fact. The Queensland Government already owns coal and iron deposits, and has obtained an option from the Government of Western Australia on a large deposit of iron ore on the North-West Coast. The proposition is to purchase plant and machinery and erect blast furnaces and steel works, thus introducing an entirely new industry which will be owned and managed by the State.

"Will this give opportunities to emigrants?"

"No doubt it will, and I am also endeavoring to make arrangements for a certain number of British ex-soldiers who wish to take up farming in Queensland, to be granted the same terms as are offered to our own men—"

"Then you think Queensland a good country to live in? What about these blighting, or blighted, State enterprises of which we have been told?"

"That they are nearly all flourishing, thank you," smiled Mr. Theodore.

"Any profits—that's what the business men ask—do they pay?"

"Yes, most of them show profits," answered Mr. Theodore. "Of course, we are only a small State, and do not do things on the grand scale but we are not out for profits so much as the provision of services and commodities at a reasonable price. Our trading schemes, so far, have been undertaken with the object of ousting the profiteer and showing the people that the State can, if it likes, do better for them. For example, we have gone into the cattle and sheep raising business. Last year we owned fifteen

stock breeding depots, with an area of thirty square miles. In connection with these we run a dozen State butchers' shops in the metropolitan districts, and a couple of dozen in rural areas—and we sell meat cheaper than anyone in Australit. The people who shout loudest about the horrors of State enterprise buy their meat from our shops—it costs them less, you see."

"What other crimes have you committed?" I asked, sadly.

"We have started refreshment rooms at about thirty railway stations, and notwithstanding the rise in costs of foods and wages we have managed to show a profit of nearly £100,000. Then we have four State sawmills, which have been selling lumber at 6 per cent. below the average prices, and our net profit last year was over £3,000, though we had shown a loss the year before and there is a loss on our fish enterprise at present—but that will soon be rectified. Altogether our trading 'profits' last year, were over £80,000 after deducting losses, and we have accumulated profits of a quarter of a million."

"Is that the sum total of your villainies?" I asked.

"Oh no," said Mr. Theodore, "I haven't mentioned the State Insurance Office."

"Perhaps you had better not," I interrupted.

"It is rather a bad case," Mr. Theodore admitted. "We started it in 1919, and we do every kind of insurance: fire, life, accident—everything. We didn't need any capital but Parliament voted a grant of £100,000 in case of necessity. None of this money has been called for, and the Insurance Department has actually been able to invest £250,000 of its funds in Government securities."

"Ah! then I am not surprised to learn from the London Press at intervals that the population of Queensland is seething with discontent and disgust, and that it intends, at the expiration of your term of office next year, to return a new Parliament of private enterprise."

"Well," murmured Mr. Theodore, "it may be so, but the portents at present do not suggest that we are found out. At the last by-election, held recently, the Labor man was

returned with an increased majority."

"And you can borrow money in London when you want it, too", I remarked. "A bankrupt Labor State seems to be a fairly comfortable sort of community. Do you not suffer from any of the current evils—high prices for instance?"

"Yes", replied Mr. Theodore, "we have our troubles—we have high prices, but they are not so high as yours. Our increase is, I think, about 60 per cent above pre-war, and we have been fortunate in being able to keep the prices of the necessities of life fairly low. Our people have always had butter to eat, and plenty of meat. Sugar, too, has been cheap compared with your prices; it is only 6d. per lb. now."

"Lucky Queenslanders!" I remarked, "and have you got no wages troubles?"

"Yes, we have our wages troubles, too, but, there again, we have been fortunate in our arbitration scheme, introduced by the Labor Government a couple of years ago. Previously, the arbitration methods had been brought into contempt owing to the excessive delays possible under the Act, advantage of which was taken freely by the employers. They were able, for example, to put off the granting of a legitimate demand for as long as three years. We remedied these evils, and under the Act passed by the Labor Government ninety-five per cent. of our industries regulate wages under

awards made by the Court of Arbitration."

"Is it compulsory?" I asked.

"It is compulsory to this extent", said Mr. Theodore, "that one side can bring a dispute into Court, and whether the other side appear or not, the award is enforceable."

"Then, are strikes illegal?"

"No. Strikes are perfectly legal if certain conditions be observed, and we occasionally suffer from strikes."

"How", I asked Mr. Theodore, "do you deal with variations in the wage rates of persons employed in similar occupations, such as railwaymen and dockers?"

"We have what we call a basic rate, based on the cost of living at a decent standard of life, and the rate is applied in all unskilled occupations of a similar character. Skilled workers receive additions to this basic rate."

"And what about women, do they get 'equal pay'?" I asked.

"Practically in all cases, said Mr. Theodore. "There are some exceptions. I believe there is a difference of £10 a year in teachers' salaries, for instance, at certain points in the scale. Generally, our women get married and resign from the Civil Service, but, in a few instances, we have women occupying the highest possible positions."

Queensland, then, has apparently decided, for the time being, that Labor is fit to govern, but it is not all plain sailing for the Labor Government.

Since I saw Mr. Theodore a deputation has arrived in London (including an ex-premier of Queensland) with the object of protesting to the Colonial Office against some of the Acts of the Labor Government. One of the dark deeds objected to, I gather, is the passing

of a Land Act which places the small man with a few acres on similar terms with the man of a million acres. In order to get this Act through the "Upper House" the Labor Government had to understudy Mr. Asquith in his quarrel with the Peers. It is an interesting situation.

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